**Amendments to the Claims:**

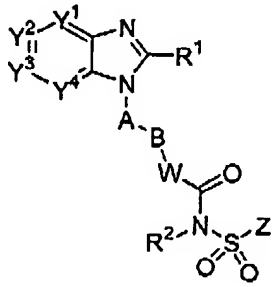
Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

Claims 13-25 (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended~~New~~) A method for the treatment of a disorder or condition ~~mediated by an EP4 receptor~~ in a mammalian subject including a human, wherein the disorder or condition is selected from pain, inflammation, an inflammation associated disorder, osteoarthritis, and rheumatoid arthritis, said method comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of the following formula:



(I)

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein

one of $Y^1$, $Y^2$, $Y^3$ and $Y^4$ is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L);

$R^1$ is H, $C_{1-8}$ alkyl, $C_{2-8}$ alkenyl, $C_{2-8}$ alkynyl, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $C_{1-8}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-8}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-8}$ alkyl-S(O)m-, $Q^1$-, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, amino, mono- or di-($C_{1-8}$ alkyl)amino, $C_{1-4}$alkyl-C(=O)-N($R^3$)- or $C_{1-4}$alkyl-S(O)m-N($R^3$)-, wherein said $C_{1-8}$ alkyl, $C_{2-8}$ alkenyl

and $C_{2-8}$ alkynyl are optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-3}$ alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-S(O)m-, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl-, cyano, indanyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphtyl, 1,2-dihydronaphtyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, $Q^1$-, $Q^1$-C(=O)-, $Q^1$-O-, $Q^1$-S(O)m-, $Q^1$-$C_{1-4}$alkyl-O-, $Q^1$-$C_{1-4}$alkyl-S(O)m-, $Q^1$-$C_{1-4}$alkyl-C(O)-N($R^3$)-, $Q^1$-$C_{1-4}$alkyl-N($R^3$)- or $C_{1-4}$alkyl-C(O)-N($R^3$)-;

$Q^1$ is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, and is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-($C_{1-4}$alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-$C_{1-4}$alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $C_{1-4}$alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$alkyl-O(O=)C-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$- or $NH_2(HN=)C$-;

A is a 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, wherein said 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with up to 3 substituents selected from halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-4}$alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-($C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-$C_{1-4}$alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, acetyl, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$alkyl-O(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$- and $NH_2(HN=)C$-;

B is halo-substituted $C_{1-6}$ alkylene, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkylene, $C_{2-6}$ alkenylene, $C_{2-6}$ alkynylene, -O-$C_{1-5}$ alkylene, $C_{1-2}$ alkylene-O-$C_{1-2}$ alkylene or $C_{1-6}$ alkylene optionally substituted with an oxo group or $C_{1-3}$ alkyl;

W is NH, N-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, O, S, N-$OR^5$ or a covalent bond;

$R^2$ is H, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, OH or $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy;

Z is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, ~~$C_1$~~$C_{2-4}$ alkenyl, ~~$C_1$~~$C_{2-4}$ alkynyl, hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-($C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-$C_{1-4}$alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $C_{1-4}$alkylC(=O)-, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$alkyl-O(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $NH_2(HN=)C$-, $Q^2$-S(O)m-, $Q^2$-O-, $Q^2$-$N(R^3)$- or $Q^2$- ;

L is halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-($C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-$C_{1-4}$alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $C_{1-4}$alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$alkyl-O(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, $NH_2(HN=)C$-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $R^3N(R^4)S(O)$m-, $Q^2$-, $Q^2$-C(=O)-, $Q^2$-O-, $Q^2$-$C_{1-4}$alkyl-O-, or two adjacent L groups are optionally joined together to form an alkylene chain having 3 or 4 members in which one or two (non-adjacent) carbon atoms are optionally replaced by oxygen atoms;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

$R^3$ and $R^4$ are independently selected from H and $C_{1-4}$ alkyl ;

$R^5$ is H, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-(O=)C- or $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O-(O=)C- ; and

$Q^2$ is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring, or a 5-12 membered tricyclic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{2-4}$ alkenyl, $C_{2-4}$ alkynyl, hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted ~~$C_1$~~$C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-($C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-$C_{1-}$

4alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $C_{1-4}$alkyl- (O=)C-, $R^3(R^4)C(=O)N$-, HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-C(=O)NH- or $NH_2(HN=)C$-.

29. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 28, wherein

one of $Y^1$, $Y^2$, $Y^3$, and $Y^4$ is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L);

$R^1$ is H, $C_{1-8}$ alkyl, $C_{2-8}$ alkenyl, $C_{2-8}$ alkynyl, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $C_{1-8}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-8}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-8}$ alkyl-S(O)m-, $Q^1$-, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, amino, mono- or di-($C_{1-8}$ alkyl)amino, $C_{1-4}$alkyl-C(=O)-N($R^3$)- or $C_{1-4}$alkyl-S(O)m-N($R^3$)-, wherein said $C_{1-8}$ alkyl, $C_{2-8}$ alkenyl and $C_{2-8}$ alkynyl are optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-3}$ alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-S(O)m-, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl-, cyano, indanyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphtyl, 1,2-dihydronaphtyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, $Q^1$-, $Q^1$-C(=O)-, $Q^1$-O-, $Q^1$-S(O)m-, $Q^1$-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O-, $Q^1$-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl-S(O)m-, $Q^1$-$C_{1-4}$alkyl-C(=O)-N($R^3$)-, or $C_{1-4}$alkyl-C(=O)-N($R^3$)-;

$Q^1$ is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, and is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl , hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-($C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-$C_{1-4}$alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O(O)C-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$- or $NH_2(HN=)C$-;

A is a 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 2 heteroatoms selected from O, N, and S, wherein said 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with up to 2 substituents selected from halo,

$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy and halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy;

B is $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkylene or $C_{1-6}$ alkylene optionally substituted with an oxo group or $C_{1-3}$ alkyl;

W is NH, N-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, O or N-OH;

$R^2$ is H or $C_{1-4}$ alkyl;

Z is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, ~~C~~$_{1}$$C_{2-4}$ alkenyl, $C_{2-4}$ alkynyl, hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, nitro, amino, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylC(=O)-, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-C(=O)NH-, $Q^2$-S(O)m-, $Q^2$-O-, $Q^2$-N($R^3$)- or $Q^2$-;

L is halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl , hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, mono- or di-($C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $R^3N(R^4)S(O)m$-, $Q^2$-, $Q^2$-C(=O)-, $Q^2$-O-, $Q^2$-$C_{1-4}$alkyl-O-, or two adjacent L groups are optionally joined together to form an alkylene chain having 3 or 4 members in which one or two (non-adjacent) carbon atoms are optionally replaced by oxygen atoms;

m is 0 or 2;

$R^3$ and $R^4$ are independently selected from H and $C_{1-4}$ alkyl; and

$Q^2$ is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring, or a 8-12 membered tricyclic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{2-4}$ alkenyl, $C_{2-4}$

alkynyl, hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkylthio, mono- or di-($C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-(O=)C-, $R^3(R^4)C(=O)N$-, HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl or $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-C(=O)NH-.

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 29, wherein

one of $Y^1$, $Y^2$, $Y^3$, and $Y^4$ is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L);

$R^1$ is H, $C_{1-8}$ alkyl, $C_{2-8}$ alkenyl, $C_{2-8}$ alkynyl, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $Q^1$-, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, amino, mono- or di-($C_{1-8}$ alkyl)amino, wherein said $C_{1-8}$ alkyl is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-3}$ alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-S(O)m-, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl-, cyano, indanyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, $Q^1$-, $Q^1$-C(O)-, $Q^1$-O-, $Q^1$-S-, $Q^1$-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O-, or $C_{1-4}$alkyl-C(O)-N($R^3$)-;

$Q^1$ is a 5-12 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from N and S, and is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl and $C_{1-4}$ alkylC(=O)-;

A is 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl or $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy;

B is $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkylene or $C_{1-6}$ alkylene optionally substituted with an oxo group or $C_{1-3}$ alkyl;

W is NH, N-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, O or N-OH;

$R^2$ is H or $C_{1-4}$ alkyl;

Z is 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-

substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{2-4}$ alkenyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, nitro, amino, cyano, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O(O=)C-, $Q^2$- S(O)m-, $Q^2$-O-, $Q^2$-N($R^3$)- or $Q^2$-;

L is halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl , hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, mono- or di-($C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $R^3N(R^4)S(O)m$-, $Q^2$-, $Q^2$-C(=O)-, $Q^2$-O-, $Q^2$-$C_{1-4}$alkyl-O-, or two adjacent L groups are optionally joined together to form an alkylene chain having 3 or 4 members in which one or two (non-adjacent) carbon atoms are optionally replaced by oxygen atoms;

m is 0 or 2;

$R^3$ and $R^4$ are independently selected from H and $C_{1-4}$ alkyl; and

$Q^2$ is a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring, or a 8-12 membered tricyclic ring containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from N and S, wherein said 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 30, wherein

one of $Y^1$, $Y^2$, $Y^3$ and $Y^4$ is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L);

$R^1$ is H, $C_{1-8}$ alkyl, $C_{2-8}$ alkenyl, $C_{2-8}$ alkynyl or $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, wherein said $C_{1-8}$ alkyl is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-3}$ alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-S(O)m-, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl-, cyano, indanyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, $Q^1$-, $Q^1$-C(=O)-, $Q^1$-O-, $Q^1$-S-, $Q^1$-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O-, or $C_{1-4}$alkyl-C(O)-N($R^3$)-;

$Q^1$ is a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from N and S;

A is 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring system optionally substituted with halo or $C_{1-4}$ alkyl;

B is $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkylene or $C_{1-6}$ alkylene optionally substituted with an oxo group or $C_{1-3}$ alkyl;

W is NH, N-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, O or N-OH;

$R^2$ is H or $C_{1-4}$ alkyl;

Z is 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{2-4}$ alkenyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, nitro, amino, cyano, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O(O=)C-, $Q^2$-S(O)m-, $Q^2$-O-, $Q^2$-N($R^3$)- or $Q^2$-;

L is halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl , hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylC(=O), HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)NR^4$-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $R^3N(R^4)S(O)m$-, $Q^2$-, $Q^2$-C(=O)-, $Q^2$-O-, $Q^2$-$C_{1-4}$alkyl-O-, or two adjacent L groups are optionally joined together to form an alkylene chain having 3 or 4 members in which one or two (non-adjacent) carbon atoms are optionally replaced by oxygen atoms;

m is 0 or 2;

$R^3$ and $R^4$ are independently selected from H and $C_{1-4}$ alkyl; and

$Q^2$ is 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring or a 8-12 membered tricyclic ring optionally containing 1 sulfur atom wherein said 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo.

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 31, wherein

one of $Y^1$, $Y^2$, $Y^3$ and $Y^4$ is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L);

$R^1$ is $C_{1-5}$ alkyl or $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, wherein said $C_{1-5}$ alkyl is optionally substituted with $C_{1-3}$ alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, $Q^1$-, or $C_{1-4}$alkyl-C(O)-N(H)-;

$Q^1$ is 5-12 membered monocyclic aromatic ring system optionally containing up to 2 heteroatoms selected from N and S,

A is 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring system;

B is $C_{1-3}$ alkylene optionally substituted with $C_{1-3}$ alkyl;

W is NH, N-$C_{1-2}$ alkyl or O;

$R^2$ is H;

Z is 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, nitro, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$- or $Q^2$-;

L is halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl , hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, acetyl, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $R^3N(R^4)S(O)m$-, $Q^2$-, $Q^2$-C(=O)-, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group;

$R^3$ and $R^4$ are independently selected from H and $C_{1-4}$ alkyl; and

$Q^2$ is 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring system.

33. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 32, wherein

one of $Y^1$, $Y^2$, $Y^3$ and $Y^4$ is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L);

$R^1$ is $C_{1-5}$ alkyl optionally substituted with $C_{1-3}$ alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring, wherein said 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is containing 1 or 2 heteroatoms selected from N and S, or $C_{1-4}$alkyl-C(O)-N($R^3$)-;

A is phenyl;

B is $C_{1-2}$ alkylene optionally substituted with methyl;

W is NH, N-$CH_3$ or O;

$R^2$ is H;

Z is 5-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from N and S, wherein said 5-10 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with chloro, bromo, methyl, nitro, $CH_3C(=O)NH$-, tBuC(=O)NH- or phenyl; and

L is chloro, methyl, ~~trifluluoromethyl~~ trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, cyano, acetyl, $-C(=O)NH_2$, ~~trifluoro~~trifluoromethyloxy, methanesulfonyl, or 1-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethyl, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group.

34. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 33, wherein

one of $Y^1$, $Y^2$, $Y^3$ and $Y^4$ is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L);

$R^1$ is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, neopentyl, thiazolylethyl methylamino, dimethylamino, pyrrolidinyl, pyridyl, or 1-acetylamino-1-methylethyl;

A is phenyl;

B is ethylene or propylene;

W is NH, N-$CH_3$ or O;

$R^2$ is H;

Z is phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, thienyl, naphthyl or benzothienyl, said phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl and thienyl being optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, bromo, methyl, acetylamino, pivaloylamino, nitro and phenyl; and

L is chloro, methyl, ~~trifluluoromethyl~~ trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, cyano, acetyl, $-C(=O)NH_2$, ~~trifluoro~~trifluoromethyloxy, methanesulfonyl, or 1-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethyl, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group.

35. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 34, wherein

$Y^1$, $Y^2$, $Y^3$ and $Y^4$ are selected from the group consisting of

a) $Y^1$ and $Y^3$ are C(L), $Y^2$ is CH and $Y^4$ is N;

b) $Y^1$ is CH, $Y^2$ and $Y^3$ are C(L) and $Y^4$ is N;

c) $Y^1$, $Y^2$ and $Y^3$ are C(L) and $Y^4$ is N;

d) $Y^1$ and $Y^3$ are C(L), $Y^2$ is N and $Y^4$ is CH;

e) $Y^1$ and $Y^2$ are CH, $Y^3$ is C(L) and $Y^4$ is N;

f) $Y^1$ and $Y^3$ are CH, $Y^2$ is C(L) and $Y^4$ is N;

g) $Y^1$ and $Y^2$ are C(L), $Y^3$ is CH and $Y^4$ is N;

h) $Y^1$ and $Y^2$ are C(L), $Y^3$ is N and $Y^4$ is CH;

i) $Y^1$ is C(L), $Y^2$ and $Y^3$ are CH, and $Y^4$ is N; and

j) $Y^2$ is C(L), $Y^1$ and $Y^3$ are CH, and $Y^4$ is N;

$R^1$ is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, neopentyl, thiazolylethyl methylamino, dimethylamino, pyrrolidinyl, pyridyl, or 1-acetylamino-1-methylethyl;

A is phenyl;

B is ethylene or propylene;

W is NH, N-$CH_3$ or O;

$R^2$ is H;

Z is phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, thienyl, naphthyl or benzothienyl, said phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl and thienyl being optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, bromo, methyl, acetylamino, pivaloylamino, nitro and phenyl; and

L is chloro, methyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, cyano, acetyl, $-C(=O)NH_2$, trifluoromethyloxy, methanesulfonyl, or 1-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethyl, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group.

36. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 35, wherein

$Y^1$, $Y^2$, $Y^3$ and $Y^4$ are selected from the group consisting of

a) $Y^1$ and $Y^3$ are C(L), $Y^2$ is CH and $Y^4$ is N;

b) $Y^1$ is CH, $Y^2$ and $Y^3$ are C(L) and $Y^4$ is N;

c) $Y^1$, $Y^2$ and $Y^3$ are C(L) and $Y^4$ is N; and

d) $Y^1$ and $Y^3$ are C(L), $Y^2$ is N and $Y^4$ is CH;

$R^1$ is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, neopentyl, thiazolylethyl methylamino, dimethylamino, pyrrolidinyl, pyridyl, or 1-acetylamino-1-methylethyl;

A is phenyl;

B is ethylene or propylene;

W is NH, N-$CH_3$ or O;

$R^2$ is H;

Z is phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, thienyl, naphthyl or benzothienyl, said phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl and thienyl being optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, bromo, methyl, acetylamino, pivaloylamino, nitro and phenyl; and

L is chloro, methyl, trifluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, cyano, acetyl, $-C(=O)NH_2$, trifluoromethyloxy, methanesulfonyl, or 1-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethyl, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group.

37. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 28 wherein the compound is selected from

3-(4-{2-[({[(5-chloro-1,3-dimethyl-1h-pyrazol-4-yl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl} phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(2,4-dimethyl-1,3-thiazol-5-yl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

N-[5-({[({2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]ethyl}amino)carbonyl]amino}sulfonyl)-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl]acetamide;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[methyl({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]propyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]-1-methylethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-propyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-isopropyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-butyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-isobutyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-neopentyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)ethyl]-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-{4-[2-({[(4-biphenylsulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-{4-[2-({[(1-naphthylsulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-{4-[2-({[(2-naphthylsulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(5-chloro-2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(4,5-dichloro-2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-{4-[2-({[(1-benzothien-2-ylsulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,6-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

5,6-dichloro-2-ethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

5-chloro-2-ethyl-7-methyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

6-cyano-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-3-{4-[2-({[({3-[hydroxy(oxido)amino]phenyl}sulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

n-[4-({[({2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]ethyl}amino)carbonyl]amino}sulfonyl)phenyl]-2,2-dimethylpropanamide;

3-(4-{2-[({[(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(3-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(5-chloro-2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(5-bromo-2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(2-bromophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-{4-[2-({[({4-chloro-3-nitrophenyl}sulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-[4-(2-ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(methylamino)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

*N*-{[(2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(methylamino)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

*N*-[({2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]ethyl}amino)carbonyl]-2-thiophenesulfonamide;

2-[4-(4,6-dimethyl-2-phenyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-[4-(2-butyl-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[4,6-dimethyl-2-(3-phenylpropyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

*N*-{[(2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

2-{4-[2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate; and

salts thereof.

38. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 28 wherein the compound is selected from

2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]-1-methylethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)ethyl]-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,6-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

5,6-dichloro-2-ethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl} phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

2-ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino] ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridine;

2-[4-(2-ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(methylamino)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

*N*-{[(2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(methylamino)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

*N*-[({2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]ethyl}amino)carbonyl]-2-thiophenesulfonamide;

2-[4-(4,6-dimethyl-2-phenyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-[4-(2-butyl-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[4,6-dimethyl-2-(3-phenylpropyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

*N*-{[(2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

2-{4-[2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate; and

salts thereof.

39. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 28 wherein the compound is 2-~~ethyl~~Ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methyphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}~~carboxyl~~carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-~~C~~c}pyridine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.